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Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica, Councilwoman Heveran, Councilman LaBianco, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Council President Ryan,

Council Absent: None

Also Present: Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney Myna Becker, Acting Borough Administrator, Thomas Hanrahan, Attorney for the MEL

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

Mayor Cherchi asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Kestenbaum who recently passed away.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica to come out of Closed Session seconded by Council President Ryan. All in favor; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1

47 Closed Session “A” – March 14, 2005, A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica
48 seconded by Council President Ryan to approve the Closed Session “A” Minutes of
49 March 14, 2005. Roll Call Vote: Councilpersons Dwarica, Mitrani and Ryan voted yes,
50 Councilpersons Heveran and Puzzo abstained. Minutes approved
51

52 Closed Session “B” – March 14, 2005, A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica
53 seconded by Council President Ryan to approve the Closed Session “B” Minutes of
54 March 14, 2005. All Council on the Council at the time the meeting was held voted yes.
55 Minutes approved.
56

57 **PRESENTATION** by NJDOT Drainage Project on Grand Avenue. This will be
58 scheduled at a later date.
59

60 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

61

62 Finance Administration & Personnel will be discussed in unfinished business
63

64 Police – There are some promotions that need to be reviewed. Councilman Puzzo stated
65 that we have an acting position for almost a year and it may become a grievable issue
66 with the union.
67

68 Fire – will report at the next meeting
69

70 Ambulance – will report at the next meeting
71

72 Public Works – Council President Ryan reported on the roads that Grant applications
73 have been applied for. Acting Borough Administrator reported that Leonia Avenue work
74 should start on April 18.
75

76 Real Estate and Insurance – no report
77

78 Acting Borough Administrator – A status report was received from Job & Job
79 construction today. Leonia Avenue should be starting April 18 weather permitting.
80 Reported on what needs to be done with Stormwater Regulations. A meeting was held
81 with PMK Engineering. Our mapping will have to be brought up to date. Ordinances will
82 have to be amended. There will be another meeting with PMK.
83

84 Councilman LaBianco asked for a resolution appointing Myrna Becker as Acting
85 Borough Administrator. A motion was made to appoint by Council President Ryan
86 seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica on discussion Councilman Puzzo requested it be
87 held until a vote is taken on resolutions. Roll Call Vote Councilpersons Dwarica,
88 Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan voted yes, Councilmen LaBianco and Puzzo voted no.
89 Resolution 05-109 approved.
90

91 Special Bodies to the Borough
92

Councilwoman Dwarica read a flyer regarding the upcoming Leonia Historic Preservation event. Historic Preservation is presenting David Boyd's get on the "School Bus" the historic tour will take place May 1 \$10.00 per person seats are limited and no children under 10.

Mayor Cherchi reported that David Boyd is going to be recognized on the County level for the DVD he did on Leonia.

Mayor Cherchi also reported that he took part in a light rail trip from Camden to Trenton and it was very impressive.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Louise Sherman – 115 Oak Tree Place spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding the water being pumped out for 248 Fort Lee Road. The water flows down Fort Lee Road cause freezing in the winter and "ponding" the rest of the year. Mayor Cherchi explained to Mrs. Sherman that the drainage issues on Fort Lee Road are part of the plan for the intersection of Fort Lee Road and Broad Avenue. Mrs. Sherman also brought to the attention of the Governing Body that the Borough Hall Parking Lot drains into her backyard. The drain needs to be cleaned.

Councilman Puzzo said he has spoken to the Borough Engineer about this problem.

Michael Fishbein 109 Oak Tree Place spoke regarding water being pumped from 248 Fort Lee Road. Mr. Fishbein feels the owner should be cited per Chapter 311-68 of the Borough Code.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman LaBianco asked questions regarding various payments on the bill list. Myrna Becker, CFO answered his questions.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by Councilman Puzzo Resolutions 05-95 through 05-104 and 05-106 through 05-108. A discussion was held regarding 05-107, it was decided to remove Grand Avenue from the Resolution. Resolution 05-104 "Elizabeth Cady Stanton" needs to be moved up to after "Jackie Robinson." Roll Call Vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani Ryan and Puzzo voted yes Resolutions approved. Resolution 05-105 was held until after Closed Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2005 Municipal Budget – CFO Myrna Becker explained where things stand with the budget. A discussion was held regarding further cuts in the budget.

Nomination of Southeast Senior Center Board of Directors – Councilwoman Dwarica reported that she has spoken to Nasa Foti who has accepted the nomination. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani to nominate Nasa Foti to the Southeast Senior Center Board of Directors. All Council present voted yes.

Leonia Avenue – Acting Borough Administrator Becker reported that work is scheduled to begin on April 18.

Jake Brake – Councilman Puzzo reported he is waiting to hear from Chief Ziegler regarding enforcement.

Televised Council Meetings – Councilman Puzzo reported he has contacted the County to find out about the grant that is available to pay for the equipment. The audiovisual department at the High School is interested in assisting. This will be aired on the public access station.

Siren Tower/Cellular Antenna Questions & Responses Councilwoman Heveran asked if the Fire Department has seen the responses. Acting Borough Administrator Becker said yes, the Fire Department has received a copy and that Cingular did not respond to one question.

Streetscape – C.G. is going to go out for bid for the next phase. Councilwoman Dwarica stated she has a group of women who will take care of the gazebo. Councilwoman Mitrani has a list of people who will take care of flowerbeds. All the tree wells are filled.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No one spoke.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani to go into Closed Session to discuss the White Collar Contract.

A motion was made to approve Resolution 05-105 by Councilwoman Dwarica seconded by Councilman Ryan to approve Resolution 05-105. Roll Call Vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes, Councilman LaBianco voted no. Resolution 05-105 approved.

Councilwoman Dwarica made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Council President Ryan. All in favor none opposed. As there was no further business to discuss meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann
Borough Clerk